

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Track Construction and Electrification of Rail Lines in RBD Erfurt	DATE DISTR.	18 March 1954	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The following routes within RBD Erfurt are double-tracked:

Halle-Weissenfels-Neudietendorf

Saalfeld - Unterwellenborn (double-tracked during 1952 to prevent a bottleneck in the transport of iron ore to the VEB Maxhuetten Unterwellenborn)

Sangershausen - Blankenheim Junction
(Junction of routes to Magdeburg and Halle)

Gehlberg - Oberhof (This passes through the 3000 meter Brandleite Tunnel.)

2. New Construction

- a. A passing line has been built at the Haarhausen stop on the line from Neudietendorf to Arnstadt in order to make fuller use of this 10 km. stretch. This line is used for troop transports routed to the Ohrdruf training area via Graefenroda.
- b. A new line has been built between Vacha and Unterbreizbach to obviate the need for trains to pass through Land Hesse (West Germany) as they had had to do when using the old route between Vacha and Molslar (Rhoen).
- c. A connecting loop has been built between the Erfurt - Sangerhausen and the Reinsdorf - Weissenfels lines. Thus, the mountain route, Sangerhausen -

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- 2 -

Blankenheim, can be circumvented by using the Brandeite Tunnel, and trains from the Halle area can be routed direct to Erfurt by this branch line.

3. It is planned to electrify the through line between Weissenfels - Erfurt - Eisenach and the zonal boundary in 1954. Sidings and marshalling yards on the route will not be electrified. The power station at Muldenstein near Bitterfeld is to be rebuilt in order to supply the electric current. Preliminary work on the power station has already begun.

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